

# THE WORLD IS CHANGING - HOW ABOUT US?

## Additional Ideas for Worship

Page	Content	Page
2 - 7	Prayers	
	Versions of the Lord's Prayer	2-4
	other	5-6
	Prayers from indigenous peoples	7-8
8	Confession	
9	Forgiveness	
10	Meditation	
10	Videos: Good news from around the world. Witnesses of climate change	
11	Readings and bible quotations	
12-14	Drama – Planet Doctor	

The materials are from various sources as you will see from the acknowledgements.

We have included some here that particularly relate to the theme and we have referred to more to increase your choice.

## PRAYERS

**The Lord's Prayer – here are THREE responsive versions to choose from:**

*Two versions from CAFOD*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.

*Lead us to worship only you, Lord, and not money,  
to put people before profit  
and 'being' before having'.*

Thy kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.

*Inspire us to work together to change the world  
so that everyone has enough  
and all can live life to the full.*

Forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

*Create in us the desire  
to live in harmony with creation  
so all people may flourish  
and your kingdom come.*

Amen.

*Adaptation Catherine Gorman/CAFOD*

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Reader 1:** We ask forgiveness for the times when we have not worshipped you and made your name holy, when we have been caught up in the desire to have more.

**All: We pray that we may be open to hearing your voice and inspired to work for economic justice.**

**All: Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Reader 2:** We ask forgiveness for the times when we have not promoted the full dignity of men and women.

**All: We pray in hope that discrimination and prejudice will give way to welcoming all people to your banquet.**

**All: Give us this day our daily bread.**

**Reader 3:** We ask forgiveness for the times we have not shared our resources with others.

**All: We pray that we may be generous both with our possessions and our gifts and live lives of solidarity.**

**All: And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**Reader 4:** We ask forgiveness for the times we have not been in right relationship with others.

**All: We pray that your spirit of reconciliation may be made real within us.**

**All: And lead us not into temptation.**

**Reader 5:** We ask forgiveness for the times when we have not believed that our actions could make a difference.

**All: We pray that we may work towards the common good, knowing that you are with us always.**

**All: But deliver us from evil.**

**Reader 6:** We ask forgiveness for the times we have dismissed the sin of environmental injustice.

**All: We pray that we may have the courage and conviction to act now to prevent further destruction to God's beautiful planet.**

**All: For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever.**

**Reader 7:** We ask forgiveness for the times we have prevented others from flourishing, from reaching their full potential.

**All: We pray for a child-like spirit, open to the wonder of creation and the diversity of peoples, since the glory of God is the whole of creation and the whole of humanity, fully alive.**

**Amen.**

*Adaptation by Susy Brouard, CAFOD*

*This version is from Eco-congregation resources:*

Our Father, who art in heaven...

***You are also at home in the air, soil, forests and oceans,***

Hallowed be Your name...

***By the care we take of your creation,***

Your Kingdom come...

***All that you see is good,***

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

***Your will to till and care.***

Give us this day our daily bread...

***That all may have sufficient to live life in fullness***

Forgive us our trespasses...

***our greed, our exploitation, our lack of concern for other species and for future generations,***

As we forgive those who trespass against us...

***by reconciliation with justice and peace***

Lead us not into temptation...

***the temptation to equate dominion with exploitation,***

And deliver us from evil...

***the evil of destroying your gift of creation,***

For Yours is the Kingdom...

***Yours Lord, not ours,***

The Power and the Glory...

***in the cross and the resurrection,***

For ever and ever...

***You were the beginning and you are the end***

Amen

***And so be it.***

*From Module 2 Eco-congregation resources From Module 2 Eco-congregation resources*  
*[www.ecocongregation.org]*

## **Voices of Confession**

Voice 1: We consume more than we need at the expense of others and the earth

Voice 2: We take for granted the energy which enables us to live in warmth and light, to travel and to work, to create and to serve

Voice 3: We throw away plastic with no thought for where it will end up.

Voice 4: We use up the raw materials of energy with little thought for the future

Voice 5: We do not do enough to invest in research and development for future renewable technologies

**Lord, forgive us**

**Lord, heal us**

**Lord, inspire us**

**Lord, guide us**

**Lord, fill us with your energy to turn our ideas into love and our love into action for the benefit of others and the well-being of your creation.**

**Amen**

*From the European Christian Environment Network [www.ecen.org](http://www.ecen.org)*

Compassionate and loving God,  
you created the world  
for us all to share,  
a world of beauty and plenty.  
Create in us a desire to live simply,  
so that our lives may reflect your generosity.

Creator God,  
you gave us responsibility for the earth,  
a world of riches and delight.  
Create in us a desire to live sustainably,  
so that those who follow after us  
may enjoy the fruits of your creation.

God of peace and justice,  
you give us the capacity to change,  
to bring about a world that mirrors your wisdom.  
Create in us a desire to act in solidarity,  
so that the pillars of injustice crumble  
and those now crushed are set free. **Amen.**

© Linda Jones CAFOD [[www.livesimply.org.uk](http://www.livesimply.org.uk)]

Jesus Christ, tempted to turn stones to bread in the wilderness:  
teach us that when we change time for our convenience:

night to day in our living,  
patience to speed in our journeying,  
winter to summer in our eating,

we change God's calendar which brings

the hatchling to the caterpillar,  
the bee to the nectar,  
the rains to the farmer;  
to the one which brings you to the cross.

Give us grace in our simplest actions  
to choose the life which breathes in the beautiful complexity of creation,  
to conquer death,  
and to fit us to be Easter people.

**Amen.**

© Eleanor Todd Eco-congregation (Scotland)

God of love, show us our place in this world  
as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth,  
for not one of them is forgotten in your sight.  
Enlighten those who possess power and money  
that they may avoid the sin of indifference,  
that they may love the common good, advance the weak,  
and care for this world in which we live.  
The poor and the earth are crying out.  
O Lord, seize us with your power and light,  
help us to protect all life,  
to prepare for a better future,  
for the coming of your Kingdom  
of justice, peace, love and beauty.  
Praise be to you!

**Amen.**

*'A Christian prayer for union with creation' was published in Pope Francis' encyclical, Laudato Si'.*

## **A prayer from the Ute people of North America**

Earth teach me freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky.

Earth teach me resignation as the leaves which die in the fall.

Earth teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring.

Earth teach me to forget myself as snow forgets its life.

Earth teach me to remember kindness as dry fields weep with rain.

*Traditional Ute Prayer (native North American)*  
(Taken from CAFOD's PowerPoint. "The Call of Creation")

## **A Prayer from the Guaraní indigenous people, Paraguay**

Lord, you have made us  
With your loving hands.  
You have formed us  
With the mud of this earth.  
You have given us your spirit.  
We are part of you,  
We are your family  
And you recognize us as such.  
You have perfumed us with the smell of this earth  
You have painted us with the sun of this earth:  
We, the sons and daughters of this earth,  
Are your sons, and your daughters.

Lord, you have given all your children  
The destiny of reaching the fullness of life.  
That is why we are searching for the LAND WITHOUT EVIL,  
The great dream of the Guaraní brothers and sisters  
This continues to inspire  
Their path and their search to this day.  
This spiritual force invites us  
To bring out our own dreams.

We share the same great utopia,  
We are infected with their yearnings for the future.  
We have found out, also, how big the threats are,  
But we know that in confronting them we are renewed.  
We are united again, we are set on our feet,  
Determined to go on walking,  
Determined to go on searching.  
Obstacles and difficulties in our path  
Will not make us renounce our dream.

For some purpose you created us,  
For some purpose you sowed us in this earth,  
For some purpose you gave everyone the dream  
Of a LAND WITHOUT EVIL.  
For some purpose you brought us together here.  
For some purpose you united us with the Guaraní dream.  
We ask you to accompany us  
On our path and in our search  
For the LAND WITHOUT EVIL  
In this earth full of Evils.

**Amen.**

*Prayer of Searchers for the Land without Evil, A letter from Paraguay.  
The "land without evil" is the traditional dream of the Guaraní indigenous people,  
which then relates to the Garden of Eden, the Promised Land and Paradise.*

## CONFESSION

### Activity

Each person has a leaf shape made out of paper or thin card. Give time for people to write on their shape one aspect of their living which does not reflect God's charge to us to care for creation.

Later in the service, under *Living and Acting for Change* ask people to write on the other side of their leaf the action that they will take in the future which will change that aspect of their living from detrimental to caring for the planet.

A branch held fast in a large plant pot with soil or sand could then be used for people to tie their commitments to, as a sign of healing for creation. The leaves of the tree symbolise our actions for the healing of the nations.

### Responsive Confession

Eternal and Sovereign God,

We recognise that we have been branded by the consumerist culture around us.

**We have unwittingly allowed its temporary values to override what is permanent and truly important.**

We continue to damage your creation through our over-consumption and wastefulness.

**Forgive us, Lord, and help us to refuse to conform any longer to the false aspirations of greed and pretence of our world.**

Transform our inmost sense of truth and justice and change the direction and tempo of our lives.

**For your name's sake, Amen.**

*(From the A Rocha Environment Sunday pack 2005, ([www.arocha.org.uk](http://www.arocha.org.uk)),  
inspired by an excerpt from *Living on Purpose* by T & C Sine (2001)  
quoted in *L is for lifestyle* by R Valerio (2004))*



## **FORGIVENESS**

God of light and life  
whose breath sustains us,  
in your forgiving, inspire us with new ways of living  
in your redeeming, show us our interdependence with all creation  
in your saving, grant us courage to live simply  
that we may be good news for the rest of the planet.  
**Amen.**

\* \* \*

God of creation, who loves all he has made and all that has evolved,  
open the eyes of your people,  
that your love might be reflected in our care for the planet.  
Through Jesus Christ, who walked this earth and calls us by name.  
**Amen.**

*Rt Revd Nicholas Baines  
Bishop of Leeds*

\* \* \*

Heavenly Lord, you long for the world's salvation:  
stir us from apathy,  
restrain us from excess and  
revive in us new hope  
that all creation will one day be healed  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

*From Church of England's 'Creationtide'*

More [here](#) including a list of appropriate **hymns and songs** on p9 of [Liturgical resources \(Guildford Diocese\)](#)

## MEDITATION

Leader: Please could you find an object in your pocket or handbag which is symbolic of our lifestyle in the rich part of the world. It might be a car key (transport), or a mobile phone (cheap communication). It might be a coin (consumerism) or simply the paper on which this order of service is printed (access to information).

Think for a few moments about all that lies behind that object: where it might have been made, how it was made, who might have made it, the energy and resources used in its manufacture. Try to ask yourself as you meditate whether you could live without it (or what that object symbolises for you). How might you be more content to do without that object? How might it build community?

\* \* \*

### Queen of All Creation

A beautifully made video, in praise of the Virgin Mary, as protector of the poor and Queen of all creation. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=35&v=G-qgaD31llc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=35&v=G-qgaD31llc) (1m. 52s)

## VIDEOS with good news from around the world

**Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, with young Anglicans from around the world.**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=341mnnLI0aA> (2m. 2s.)

### From the USA:

A short video from the United Church of Christ about how their congregations are caring for the earth.

<https://vimeo.com/234577047> (3m. 24s.)

**Coming Together in Faith and Climate** brought together Christian, Jewish, Muslim and other national religious leaders in Washington D.C. at the National Cathedral to express inter-denominational support for the Pope's call to action on climate change and creation care. This video celebrates this event. This is an excerpt from one UCC speaker. This would be appropriate for an interfaith event.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lolxHTkOOEM&feature=youtu.be> (4m. 38s.)

A song from Australia: Peter Mayer "Holy Now" (with lyrics in captions)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=214&v=KiypaURysz4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=214&v=KiypaURysz4) (4m.55s.)

### Witnesses of Climate Change

See Operation Noah's new animated video where 7-year-old Salote talks about the effects of climate change on her Polynesian home. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLAfhMOIWqI> (3 mins 45 secs.)

## READINGS

### Isaiah 24: 1- 5

- 1 See, the LORD is going to lay waste the earth  
and devastate it;  
he will ruin its face and scatter its inhabitants
- 2 it will be the same  
for priest as for people,  
for master as for servant,  
for mistress as for maid,  
for seller as for buyer,  
for borrower as for lender,  
for debtor as for creditor.
- 3 The earth will be completely laid waste and totally plundered.  
The LORD has spoken this word.
- 4 The earth dries up and withers,  
the world languishes and withers,  
the exalted of the earth languish.
- 5 The earth is defiled by its people;  
they have disobeyed the laws,  
violated the statutes  
and broken the everlasting covenant.

### Psalm 146

- 5 Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
whose hope is in the LORD his God,
- 6 the Maker of heaven and earth, the sea, and everything in them  
the LORD, who remains faithful forever.
- 7 He upholds the cause of the oppressed  
and gives food to the hungry.  
The LORD sets prisoners free,
- 8 the LORD gives sight to the blind,  
the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down,  
the LORD loves the righteous.
- 9 The LORD watches over the alien  
and sustains the fatherless and the widow,  
but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.
- 10 The LORD reigns forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations.

## DRAMA

### Planet Doctor – a humorous story/dramatic sketch

PD = Planet Doctor (sits behind a desk, wearing white coat)

Nurse (non-speaking) = appears with Earth's medical records, then shows Earth into the Doctor's surgery

E = Earth (padded out to be as rotund as possible!)

PD: The earth. Give me her file nurse.

Thank you. Yes, right. (looking at a file)

Four thousand six hundred million years old. Quite young for a planet.

Ah! What's this?

A hundred thousand years ago. Signs of human life.

That's worrying.

Air, water. Yes, good. Plants. Yes good.

Extinction of dinosaurs. Mmmm.

Oh! Flu like symptoms:

Warm and sweaty for long periods, then freezing cold.

Show the patient in, nurse. *(nurse ushers Earth in)*

PD: Good morning. Take a seat.

E: Oh! I can't sit down doctor, far too painful.

PD: We'd better stand up then.

You've been losing weight, I gather.

E: Oh, Yes doctor, it's awful.

Me coal and gas and oil are getting really low.

PD: That's obviously due to too much liposuction.

Too much being drawn out,

You can't take millions of years to build these things up

And then remove them all in a couple of centuries.

We'll have to do something to slow that down.

But then you've had all this radical surgery!

E: Oh yes doctor. It's been so painful,

That's why I can't sit down. All these painful scars.

It's been 250 years, and they've only just got round to sending me to you.

And I'm feeling so hot all the time.

PD: Yes, you will be.

That's because of all the extra carbon dioxide you're breathing, from the burning of all that coal, oil and gas.

E: Ooh! And I get these storms doctor, raging storms and floods,  
And then these terrible droughts,  
And me sea levels rising something shocking!

PD: Yes, the prognosis is pretty grim actually,  
And you're seriously addicted to oil burning aren't you? If we don't wean you off that  
the fever could be fatal.

E: Ooh! I hope you can doctor I already have such terrible trouble breathing.

PD: Trouble breathing you said?

E: Ooh, yes doctor. I wheeze like a black hole at times.

PD: That's because you're losing your forests.  
I'll have to prescribe trees. High doses of tree planting.  
I mean, looking at these notes, this problem's been increasing for 5000 years,  
But in this last six hundred or so, it's got rapidly worse.  
You'll soon have no fresh air at all.

E: I get this terrible itching too, doctor.

PD: Humans. That's humans, swarming all over you.  
Most of your problems start with humans.

E: You mean like all these wars I've got? Ooh! They're really painful!  
And then there's me water retention, and me circulation problems.

PD: Yes, I can see your seas rising,  
And your dry areas getting more and more arid,  
But then there's your temperate zones.

E: Me temperate zones, doctor? What's wrong with me temperate zones?

PD: More and more rain, increasing vulnerability to flooding.  
Things are not good, Mrs. Earth, not good at all.

E: And just recently, doctor, I've noticed all this plastic accumulating in me oceans,  
killing me lovely sea birds and fish – makes me feel sick and depressed.

PD: I'm afraid that's down to your humans too- making stuff you can't process and  
overloading your digestive system.

PD: You've got an acute halitosis problem as well.

E: I've been worried about that for two hundred years doctor.

PD: It's your air pollution.

Humans again. Oh! Yes.  
Industrial revolution  
Damaged living organisms,  
Including your humans,  
With asthma and lung disease,  
Not to mention damage to buildings.

E: Oh! Dear. It sounds awful.  
And Ooh doctor just look at me ozone layer!

PD Yes, it's very thin. It could possibly right itself.  
But we can't make that assumption.  
And your humans are going to get more fatal skin cancers  
And problems with cataracts.

E: What's your verdict Doctor?  
Is there any hope for me at all?

PD: Well, Mrs. Earth I don't want to give you any false hopes.  
I have to say that you are suffering  
From an unsustainable growth in your human species.  
If your current human activity doesn't change,  
I'm afraid your ailments could prove terminal  
For the balance of planetary life.

E: Ooh! Doctor! What are we going to do?

*Alan Gaunt, hymn writer and member of Parkgate and Neston United Reformed Church, adapted material from Eco-congregation Module 2 into a sketch which was used as part of their Harvest Festival. With recent additions from OWW.*